

revenue neutral, if they carried no price tag at all, I would say it's not worth it. Just during the month of August, when Congress was in recess, 70 more brave Americans died in Afghanistan, making last month the single deadliest month of this 10-year war.

The notion that things are looking up in Afghanistan is ridiculous on its face. Our continued occupation is impeding progress, not making it; fanning the flames of the insurgency instead of putting them out; making us less safe, not more. And for this, we are asking our people here in the United States to go without.

Less than 12 hours from now, however, the President will be speaking from the Chamber, and he will be talking about his job creation strategy. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I fear, will react by saying we can't spend a dime more to solve our devastating economic crisis and put Americans back to work, yet the overwhelming majority of them have nothing at all to say about the trillions of dollars we've wasted and are continuing to spend on reckless, senseless, immoral wars.

It's true that budgets are about choices. Which will we choose: the human destruction of seemingly endless wars abroad or the pressing human needs we have here at home?

The supercommittee has a big job, Mr. Speaker. It will be grossly irresponsible for them to ignore one of the biggest ticket items when they're making their considerations. Let's help solve our budget crisis and our moral crisis at the same time by bringing our troops home.

JOB CRISIS IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. HURT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the current state of the economy and the jobs crisis that is facing Virginia's Fifth District and our Nation.

The August jobs report that was released last week showed that no net new jobs were added to the economy in the month of August, while unemployment remains unacceptably high at 9.1 percent, underscoring the urgent need for real change in Washington so we can get America working again.

To help jump-start our economy, the House has been laser focused on supporting those policies that seek to remove the Federal Government as a barrier to job creation, to unleash innovation and invite opportunity in the private sector. To this end, the House has already passed several pro-growth measures that could immediately help spur job creation in Virginia's Fifth District and across our country. Unfortunately, the Senate has inexplicably refused to take action on these bills, blocking progress on commonsense solutions that would help turn our economy around at a time when we need it most.

Continuing to build on our efforts in the House to grow the economy and create jobs, the majority leader recently announced the upcoming fall and winter legislative schedule for Congress, which will focus on reducing and repealing unnecessary government regulations to create a more certain economic environment to provide our true job creators with the confidence and the freedom necessary to expand and hire.

I was glad that the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act, H.R. 1633, a bill I coauthored with Representative NOEM, was included as a part of this overall agenda on jobs and regulatory relief, and I am glad that the House will take action on this important bipartisan legislation. H.R. 1633 will prohibit the EPA from burdening farmers and small business owners in rural America with additional dust regulations so they can focus on growing their businesses and putting people back to work.

As the President prepares to address a Joint Session of Congress this evening to unveil his latest jobs plan, it is my hope that he will take this opportunity to urge the Senate to act on the bipartisan House-passed jobs bills, move past his failed stimulus measures, abandon his threats of more tax hikes, and join with us in the House in supporting those policies that put our economic recovery in the hands of the people of the Fifth District and all Americans instead of the Federal Government.

OUT OF POVERTY CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as the ranks of the unemployed continue to swell, all eyes have been focused on the plight of the middle-income working Americans. Many of their fortunes have changed dramatically for the worse. Many have lost their homes to foreclosure, many have seen their retirement accounts all but disappear, and, sadly, many of those who have been out of work for months have fallen below the poverty level.

From 2006 to 2009, more than 7 million Americans joined the ranks of the poor. Next week, on September 13, the Census Bureau will publish its annual report on poverty and income. We expect dire news again. These are not just poor people; they are poor Americans. The vast majority of poor people in this country are not poor because they are lazy and don't want to work or to do better. Many people are poor because they grew up in poverty and could not find the means to escape. They were trapped by failing schools, broken families, poor nutrition, and hopeless conditions.

In recent years, we have witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of children living in poverty. It looked like we were making progress at the

turn of the century when the child poverty rate dipped to 16 percent. By 2009, the rate has risen to 21 percent, with 15.5 million children living in poverty. This disturbs me greatly. Children who grew up in poverty are more likely to be poor during adulthood. Children who were born in middle class families have a 76 percent chance of being middle class. Poor children only have a 35 percent chance of escaping poverty.

On Friday, September 16, in conjunction with the National Association of Social Workers, I will be conducting a forum on The Future of New York City's Children. One thing we will be doing is taking a look at what we are doing for children in poverty. This is still the greatest nation on Earth. We are still the richest nation on Earth. There is just no good reason why so many of our citizens are living in poverty. We must do better.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SPEECH ON JOB CREATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOUTHERLAND) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Speaker, when the President steps into this Chamber tonight, he will be addressing an American public that has grown weary of unfulfilled promises and empty, prepackaged rhetoric. He will be speaking to a restless Nation that grows louder than ever in its demand for strong, visionary leadership from its government leaders. They want solutions.

Not one job was added during the entire month of August. I will remind all of us that it requires 150,000 new jobs each and every month for this country's economy just to break even. For 31 straight months, the unemployment rate has been above 8 percent, the lowest percentage of Americans holding a job in 28 years, over half of my lifetime.

Two hundred nineteen newly planned regulations are on tap for the American people if not stopped, costing over \$100 million each. The average small business with fewer than 20 employees faces yearly regulatory costs of over \$10,000.

□ 1040

Total yearly regulatory costs equal \$1.75 trillion, according to the Small Business Administration. And according to the EPA Numeric Nutrient Criteria Standards, these standards would cost the State of Florida, my home state, over 14,000 agriculture jobs alone. And a GDP, I might say, that grew this year at just 0.4 percent in the first quarter.

The American small business people, Mr. President, deserve real results. They will expect that tonight. They will expect that from this entire body from this point forward.

American small business people are real people, people like Jay Trumbull.